AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-57

OFFERED BY MRS. WAGNER OF MISSOURI

Page 845, after line 7, insert the following:

SEC. 1260. SOUTHEAST ASIA STRATEGY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Southeast Asia is the fulcrum of the Indo-Pacific region, providing both a geographic and maritime link between East and South Asia.

(2) The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a regional intergovernmental organization, remains central to the Indo-Pacific region’s institutional architecture and to United States foreign policy toward the region.

(3) The United States has reaffirmed that the security and sovereignty of its Southeast Asian allies and partners, including a strong, independent ASEAN, remain vital to the security, prosperity, and stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

(4) The United States has committed to continuing to deepen longstanding alliances and partnerships with a range of Southeast Asian nations,
including by promoting our shared values, democracy, human rights, and civil society.

(5) Since the end of the Second World War, United States investments in strengthening alliances and partnerships with Southeast Asian nations have yielded tremendous returns for United States interests, as working with and through these alliances and partnerships have increased the region’s capacity and capability to address common challenges.

(6) ASEAN member states are critical United States security partners in preventing violent extremism and protecting the freedom and openness of the maritime domain and in preventing the trafficking of weapons of mass destruction.

(7) ASEAN member states have contributed significantly to regional disaster monitoring and management and emergency response through initiatives such as the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management, an inter-governmental organization that facilitates coordination and cooperation among ASEAN member states and international organizations in times of emergency.

(8) According to the 2018 ASEAN Business Outlook Survey, ASEAN member states are vital to
the prosperity of the United States economy and exports to ASEAN economies support more than 500,000 jobs in the United States.

9 The United States and ASEAN have recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of their ties and established a new strategic partnership that will enhance cooperation across the economic, political-security, and people-to-people pillars of the relationship.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) deepen cooperation with ASEAN and ASEAN member states in the interest of promoting peace, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific region;

(2) affirm the importance of ASEAN centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the evolving institutional architecture of the Indo-Pacific region; and

(3) establish and communicate a comprehensive strategy toward the Indo-Pacific region that articulates—

(A) the role and importance of Southeast Asia to the United States;

(B) the value of the United States-ASEAN relationship;
(C) the mutual interests of all parties;

(D) the concrete and material benefits all
nations derive from strong United States en-
gagement and leadership in Southeast Asia; and

(E) efforts to forge and maintain ASEAN
consensus, especially on key issues of political
and security concern to the region, such as the
South China Sea.

(e) Strategy for Engagement with Southeast
Asia and ASEAN.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 180 days
after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
retary of State, in consultation with the heads of
other Federal departments and agencies as appro-
priate, shall develop and submit to the appropriate
congressional committees a comprehensive strategy
for engagement with Southeast Asia and ASEAN.

(2) Matters to be included.—The strategy
required by paragraph (1) shall include the fol-
lowing:

(A) A statement of enduring United States
interests in Southeast Asia and a description of
efforts to bolster the effectiveness of ASEAN.

(B) A description of efforts to—
(i) deepen and expand Southeast Asian alliances, partnerships, and multilateral engagements, including efforts to expand broad based and inclusive economic growth, security ties, security cooperation and interoperability, economic connectivity, and expand opportunities for ASEAN to work with other like-minded partners in the region; and

(ii) encourage like-minded partners outside of the Indo-Pacific region to engage with ASEAN.

(C) A summary of initiatives across the whole of the United States Government to strengthen the United States partnership with Southeast Asian nations and ASEAN, including to promote broad based and inclusive economic growth, trade, investment, energy and efforts to combat climate change, public-private partnerships, physical and digital infrastructure development, education, disaster management, public health and economic and political diplomacy in Southeast Asia.

(D) A summary of initiatives across the whole of the United States Government to en-
hance the capacity of Southeast Asian nations
with respect to enforcing international law and
multilateral sanctions, and initiatives to coopera-
tewith ASEAN as an institution in these
areas.

(E) A summary of initiatives across the
whole of the United States Government to pro-
mote human rights and democracy, to strength-
en the rule of law, civil society, and transparent
governance, and to protect the integrity of elec-
tions from outside influence.

(F) A summary of initiatives to promote
security cooperation and security assistance
within Southeast Asian nations, including—

(i) maritime security and maritime
domain awareness initiatives for protecting
the maritime commons and supporting
international law and freedom of naviga-
tion in the South China Sea; and

(ii) efforts to combat terrorism,
human trafficking, piracy, and illegal fish-
ing, and promote more open, reliable
routes for sea lines of communication.
(3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-propriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.